

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
STAFF AND OFFENDER NEWSLETTER

THE TOOL BOX

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SEPTEMBER 2014

How Family-Based ArtMaking Can Strengthen Re-Entry

By Judi Jennings and Jo Dufton

Kentucky Foundation for Women's Special Project

Did you know that **Sesame Street**, the well-known and much beloved television show, has an initiative called "Little Children/Big Challenges" focusing on arts-based resources for children and families affected by incarceration?

You can read all about the Sesame Street Incarcerated Initiative at:

<http://www.sesamestreet.org/parents/topicsandactivities/toolkits/challenges>



Continued on Page 2 & 3

**Need Information about
the Affordable Care Act?**

Contact:

KYNECT.KY.GOV

Call Center:

**1-855-4kynect
(855-459-6328)**

Insurance Agents and

Kynectors:

1-855-326-4650



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Since 2008, the Kentucky Foundation for Women's (KFW's) Special Project has been making art with families affected by incarceration, as a way to strengthen successful re-entry. On Sunday evenings, our trained leaders engage children and caregivers in the visitors lobby of the Louisville Metro jail in artmaking activities that encourage family communication, and strengthen family relationships. Like the Sesame Street resources, these activities are especially designed to emphasize positive factors for children, families and their incarcerated loved ones.

In December 2013, KFW's Special Project was invited to join the national Sesame Street Incarcerated Initiative. We receive free copies of their resources helping children and families affected by incarceration overcome the big challenges they face here in Louisville. We now integrate our own artmaking activities, such as letter writing, weaving and creating wish dolls, with the Sesame Street DVD and tip sheets. Together, the Sesame Street resources and the Special Project activities help strengthen bonds between children and caregivers and connect families with their incarcerated loved ones. These are important factors in successful re-entry.

The Special Project teams also create art with families participating in the Louisville Metro Department of Corrections' Day Reporting Center (DRC) program.

The photo to the right represents the beautifully drawn and artistically decorated "hands" of more than thirty youth, parents, grandparents, and support providers who gathered in 2013 for a "thanks giving" holiday family artmaking activity.



On a Sunday afternoon earlier this year, three dads from DRC, two moms and eight children gathered in a large rehearsal room at the Brown Theatre in Louisville, eagerly awaiting Bert and Ernie.



Sesame Street's production of "Can't Stop Singing" was in town. The dads and their families shook hands with Bert and Ernie and saw the show, thanks to a partnership among VEE Corporation, the Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts and the Kentucky Foundation for Women (KFW).



Integrating the Special Project's artmaking activities with Sesame Street's resources is proving to be a powerful combination for building positive family relationships.

The Special Project is happy to share our integrated artmaking activities! We will send free copies of our curricula for letter writing, weaving, and creating wish dolls along with free copies of the Sesame Street resources upon your request to Project Director Judi Jennings at judithjennings1947@gmail.com

Judi would also be glad to hear from you about successful tips and strategies for increasing awareness and positive action for strengthening families affected by incarceration in our state. We want to continue to tap into the power of family artmaking to increase successful re-entry!

Stephen Foster Academy Family Resource Center**Presents****FAMILY MATTERS.....TO US****Parenting Education Academy****“I am so tired!” “What is it now?!” “I give up!”****“I cannot take anymore!”****“I just do not know what else to do!”**

Children are a gift. Parenthood is a blessing. Even still, the journey is not easy and has its fair share of challenges and difficulties. We are here to help.

Your family matters to us.

A partnership between the Foster Family Resource Center, the Foster Parent Teacher Association, and Ronisha Johnson, CSW, has offered us the opportunity to offer Parenting Education Courses geared toward empowering effective parenting through a strengths-based parenting approach. These courses will be supported by skill-building activities which assist parents in the development of personal coping skills and communicative devices that aid their children in successful growth and promote a sense of community for each family member involved. We welcome your participation and the only thing it will cost you is a little of your time. The courses are absolutely free of charge to all parents/guardians (anyone acting as a parent to a child).

When: Thursday, September 4, 2014 through October 30, 2014 from 6pm until 7:30pm

Where: Foster Traditional Academy (Media Center)

1401 South 41st Street

Louisville, Kentucky 40211

Who: Any & Every Parent or Guardian*

Registration: Contact Latascha Craig, FRC Coordinator at (502) 485-8104 or via email at Latascha.Craig@jefferson.kyschools.us by September 3, 2014 to reserve your spot.

** A Certificate of Completion is awarded to individuals successfully completing six of the eight classes.*

FREE COMMUNITY PRESENTATION

HEALTH INSURANCE: HOW IT REALLY WORKS

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2014 AT 6:00 PM

HARDIN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

100 JIM OWEN DRIVE, ELIZABETHTOWN, KY 42701



LEGAL AID SOCIETY



STAFF FROM THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY AND THE KENTUCKY HEALTH COOPERATIVE WILL GIVE A BRIEF PRESENTATION AND ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT HOW NEWLY INSURED KENTUCKIANS WITH PRIVATE INSURANCE CAN GET THE MOST VALUE OUT OF THEIR PLANS. RESERVATIONS ARE NOT REQUIRED BUT MAY BE MADE BY CONTACTING THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY AT (502) 584-2554.

LEGAL AID SOCIETY | (502) 584-2554 | WWW.LAS100.ORG | LEGAL AID'S SERVICES ARE ALWAYS FREE



MYTH BUSTERS

<http://csgjusticecenter.org/nrrc/projects/mythbusters>

MYTH: A person with a criminal record is not eligible to receive federal student financial aid.

FACT: Individuals who are currently incarcerated in a federal, state, or local correctional institution have limited eligibility for federal student aid. In general, restrictions on federal student aid eligibility are removed for formerly incarcerated individuals including those on probation, on parole or residing in a halfway house.

MYTH: People with criminal records are automatically barred from employment.

FACT: An arrest or conviction record will NOT automatically bar individuals from employment.

FREE COMMUNITY PRESENTATION

HEALTH INSURANCE: HOW IT REALLY WORKS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2014 AT 1:30 PM
FOUNDATION FOR A HEALTHY KENTUCKY
1640 LYNDON FARM COURT, LOUISVILLE, KY 40223



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If you have any comments, questions, suggestions, articles, etc. for the TOOLBOX, please email to:

kerry.mears@ky.gov

Need Resources or information?

Check out our website: <http://corrections.ky.gov/reentry>

Click on “Pre-Release Community Resources”

www.secondchanceky.org

Do you have a felony?

Do you know someone with a felony?

Do you or someone you know need assistance with employment, housing, education, meals, and other sources to be successful?

Do you need a second chance?

www.secondchanceky.org is a website dedicated to helping people overcome obstacles in the pathway to success.

KENTUCKY RE-ENTRY COUNCILS

Kentucky Reentry is made up of reentry task forces or councils throughout the state of Kentucky. The reentry groups do not provide services for ex-offenders, nor do they have reentry programs. They are made up of individuals and organizations networking together to share information and improve the reentry process. The members may be organizations and/or individuals that provide services and/or have interests in helping. Each group is focused toward ex-offenders coming back to their areas, the issues involved, and making their community safer.

The basic purposes of each group are:

- To address the current issues ex-offenders face
- To develop a network of resources and service providers within their area
- To communicate and advocate ex-offender issues to the community and their leaders

Please visit the website: www.kentuckyreentry.org

Also, visit us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/KentuckyReentry>

<https://www.facebook.com/louisvillereentry>

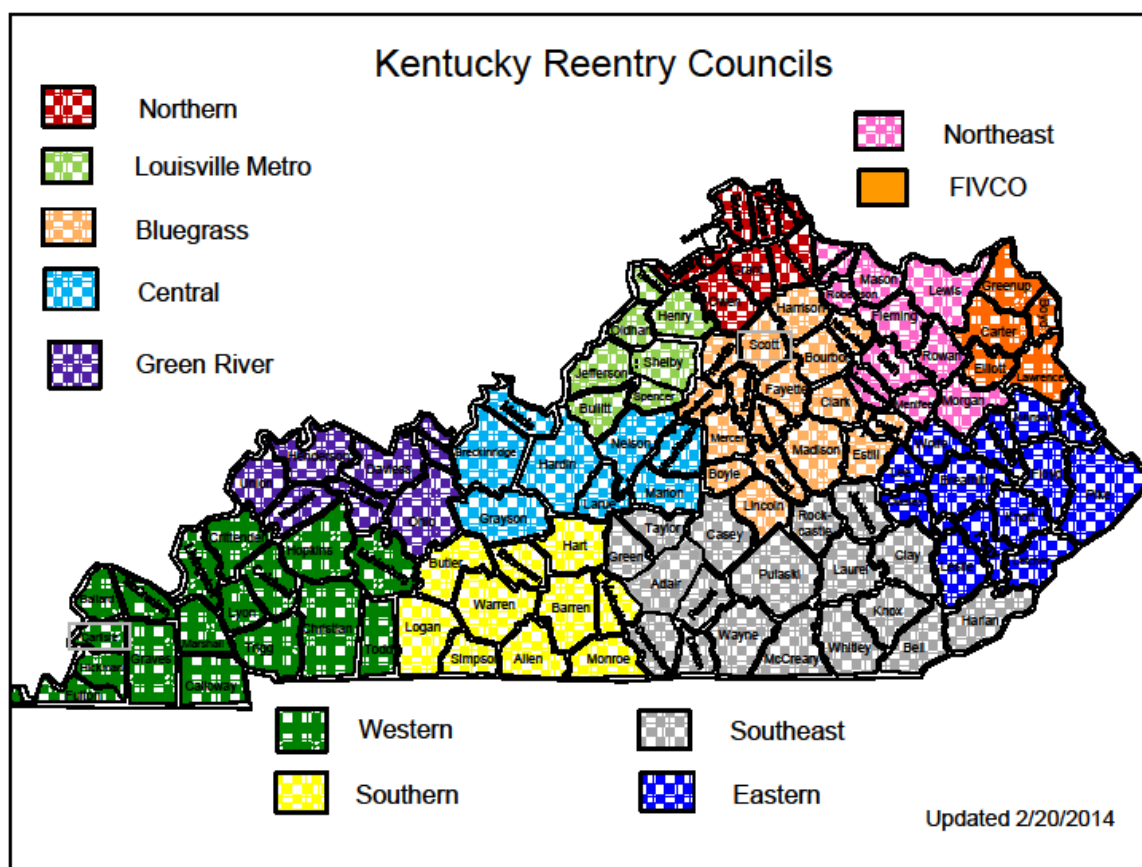
<https://www.facebook.com/BluegrassReentryCouncil>

<https://www.facebook.com/FIVCOReentryCouncil>

<https://www.facebook.com/NorthernKentuckyReentry>

<https://www.facebook.com/EasternKentuckyReentry>

<https://www.facebook.com/KentuckyFamiliesoftheIncarcerated>



Central**Date: 09-16-14****Time: 6:00-7:30 PM**

Wesley Hilltop House
1001 Skyline Drive
Elizabethtown, KY
42701

Central Area covers the
following counties:

Breckenridge
 Grayson
 Hardin
 Larue
 Marion
 Meade
 Nelson
 Washington

Kentucky
Department
of Corrections

Kerry.Mears@ky.gov
 502-782-2256
 corrections.ky.gov

Central Kentucky's

Family & Friends of the Incarcerated & Convicted

*On September 16, 2014 guest
 speaker Kerry Mears with the
 Department of Corrections
 Re-Entry Branch will be available
 for a Family Engagement
 Question & Answer session.*

Other Upcoming 2014
Meeting Dates & Location
October 21, 2014, 6PM
November 18, 2014, 6PM
At
Cornerstone Church of God
120 Ruth Lane
Elizabethtown, KY 42701



www.kentuckyreentry.org
www.facebook.com/KentuckyReentry
www.facebook.com/KentuckyFamiliesoftheIncarcerated



Five County Family & Friends of the Incarcerated & Convicted

**On October 7, 2014 guest speaker Kerry Mears
with the Department of Corrections Re-Entry Branch
will be available for a Family Engagement
Question & Answer session.**

**DATE: OCTOBER 7, 2014
TIME: 7:00—8:00 PM**



**First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
1930 Winchester Avenue
Ashland, Kentucky 41101
(606) 324-5335
www.FirstChristianChurch.org**

**The Five County (FIVCO) area encompasses:
Greenup, Carter, Elliott, Boyd, Lawrence**

**www.kentuckyreentry.org
www.facebook.com/FIVCOREentryCouncil
www.facebook.com/KentuckyFamiliesoftheIncarcerated**

**Kerry.Mears@ky.gov
502-782-2256
corrections.ky.gov**

Green River Kentucky Re-Entry Empowering Family and Friends of the Incarcerated

The goal of this group is to empower and support the family and friends of the incarcerated.

Upcoming Dates:

September 12, 2014 - 6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.

October 10, 2014 - 6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.

November 14, 2014 - 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - Guest Speaker
from the KY Department of Corrections to answer questions.

December 12, 2014 - 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Location: 2400 Friendship Drive, Suite B
Owensboro, KY 42303

Contact: 270-852-6516

The Green River area covers the following counties:

HANCOCK	WEBSTER
DAVISS	MCLEAN
HENDERSON	OHIO
UNION	



Group Facilitator:

Gregory L. Baize, Sr. M.Psych., PMHCNS-BC
Mediation and Counseling Center of Western KY, Inc.